

AIRS SOP Review

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SOP Discussion Agenda

- Review of activity since the June 12th SIEC Meeting
- Workgroup Discussion Items and Feedback
 - Discussion Items with recommendations
 - Discussion items needing SIEC discussion for resolution or referral
 - Items identified for separate future consideration
- Recommendations from the SIEC on the current SOP Draft
 - Overall format, structure and content
 - SOP content related to Workgroup Recommendations
 - SOP content needing SIEC resolution/referral



SOP Activity since June 12th

- Integration of written feedback and discussion at the June 12th meeting
- Development and editing of additional content with the assistance of Subject Matter Experts from partner agencies and workgroup-related organizations
- Phone inquiries to AIRS monitoring and dispatching agencies, and AIRS users to ascertain current usage and practices
- Development of the “handoff” SOP Version finalizing the work done under the OEC/ICTAP Technical Assistance program
- Workgroup review and teleconference on remaining AIRS issues
- Documentation of Workgroup Discussions, Recommendations and Items needing further discussion in preparation for this meeting



Discussion Items with Recommendations

1. Changes in nomenclature and channel alignment for AIRS Channels
2. National Interoperable Channel recommendations
3. AIRS Testing



Nomenclature & Channel Alignment Recommendation

There are operational advantages to having channel names correspond to their relative position, i.e., AIRS 2 is in channel 2

Renaming Maricopa County's channel to AIRS 6 and relocating it in the sixth slot allows all AIRS channels to have corresponding names and positions

AIRS AZ, the statewide channel, is well placed as the first channel, and provides a consecutive expansion area for additional regional channels

Reprogramming costs are a factor, but the recommended programming change can be accomplished over time in concert with other necessary changes

Recommendation:

- **Rename AIRS 1 to AIRS 6 with no change in CTCSS tone**
- **Program AIRS AZ in Slot 1, and place each regional channel in the relative slot corresponding to its regional name**



Nomenclature & Channel Alignment Recommendation

CURRENT		PROPOSED	
Slot 1	AIRSAZ	Slot 1	AIRSAZ
Slot 2	AIRS 1 (Maricopa County)	Slot 2	AIRS 2
Slot 3	AIRS 2	Slot 3	AIRS 3
Slot 4	AIRS 3	Slot 4	AIRS 4
Slot 5	AIRS 4	Slot 5	AIRS 5
Slot 6	AIRS 5	Slot 6	AIRS 6 (Maricopa County)



National Interoperable Channels Recommendation

Recommendation:

Agencies are encouraged to program all of the interoperable channels in their radios

Programming National Channels in a separate bank from AIRS eliminates the need to drop one channel, allows expansion room for AIRS channels, and encourages standardization of more radio programming

Agencies whose radios do not have enough space to allocate separate AIRS and National Channel banks can implement the programming recommendation as equipment with more capacity becomes available



AIRS Testing Recommendation

Recommendation:

Agencies should incorporate AIRS testing into regular testing procedures for their agency

Agencies should regularly participate in open net tests run in their AIRS regions



Items Needing SIEC Discussion

To complete the AIRS SOP, minimum required monitoring, dispatching and communication practices are needed for:

- The primary monitoring communication center in each region
- Agencies leading multi-agency incidents using AIRS
- AIRS Dispatchers and Field Users

The Workgroup identified best practices, but these practices are not followed consistently and minimum requirements must be developed



Monitoring Best Practices

There must be at least one primary monitoring communication center for every region that actively monitors AIRS 24x7, 365.

Primary Monitoring communication centers must incorporate AIRS testing into their regular testing procedures.

Primary Monitoring communication centers may or may not be appropriate dispatching agencies for AIRS incidents. Clear transfer of responsibility procedures for incidents must be defined and followed.

Primary Monitoring communication centers must run periodic open net tests for their area of responsibility unless another agency in the region has assumed that responsibility. Testing should be done at varying times to ensure that all shifts are schooled in AIRS testing and usage.

Statewide requirements for monitoring and transfer of responsibility should be defined so that communication center procedures for AIRS throughout the state are standardized to the greatest degree possible.

An MOU between DPS and any AIRS primary monitoring communication center should be in place.



Lead Agency Best Practices

Agencies leading incidents using AIRS should develop and maintain the capability to have their communication center assume dispatch responsibility for those incidents. Some agencies will be technically or financially unable to develop that capability, and should seek mutual support agreements with agencies having those capabilities.



Unresolved Operational Issues

1. Who should be the primary monitoring communication center for AIRS in each region?
2. Who else should/could monitor AIRS in each region?
3. Does DPS have a role as backup monitor or “monitor of last resort” when there is no other monitor?
4. What are the responsibilities of a primary monitoring communication center?
5. What capabilities should these centers expect agencies leading incidents using AIRS to have?
6. When and how should responsibility for incident traffic on AIRS be transferred to another communications center?
7. What governance documents (MOUs/SOPs/PSPs) should be in place to assure regions of continual appropriate monitoring and dispatching of AIRS incidents?



Dispatcher/User Actions

- Detailed Dispatcher and User Actions can be generated only after monitoring and dispatching minimum requirements are established
- Detailed user instructions are an essential part of an actionable SOP and very little user information has been provided for inclusion
- Please contact the PSIC Office if you are an AIRS user and can provide local information essential to AIRS users in your region



Other Technical/Operational Issues

For Later Discussion:

The current 800 MHz AIRS-AZ channel has the national PL tone. This national mutual aid channel is not operable within Maricopa County because it was not installed in the Maricopa County AIRS Suites.

It would be helpful for signatories to the AIRS MOU to be able to see what other agencies are also signatories so that opportunities to use AIRS can be more easily understood and its availability as a resource for an incident can be clearly established. This information also plays a critical role in establishing priorities for the use of interoperable assets when multiple incidents occur.

It could be beneficial for agencies providing functional support, such as non-emergency transportation and hospitals, to be included in AIRS testing and incidents, but they are not signatories to the AIRS MOU



SIEC Recommendations

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 - Overall format, structure and content
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Additional communication and feedback:

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